

IN THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT

FOR THE NORTHERN DISTRICT OF CALIFORNIA

LAURIE GIBBS HARRIS,

Plaintiff,

v.

NORTHWESTERN INVESTMENT MANAGEMENT  
COMPANY, LLC; and NORTHWESTERN MUTUAL  
LIFE INSURANCE COMPANY,

Defendants.

No. C 10-1763 CW

ORDER GRANTING IN  
PART PLAINTIFF'S  
MOTION FOR LEAVE TO  
FILE DOCUMENTS UNDER  
SEAL AND DENYING  
PARTIES' STIPULATED  
REQUEST FOR LEAVE TO  
FILE DOCUMENTS UNDER  
SEAL  
(Docket Nos. 36 and  
40)

On June 9, 2011, Plaintiff Laurie Gibbs Harris filed an administrative motion for leave to file under seal documents associated with her opposition to Defendants Northwestern Investment Management Company, LLC, and Northwestern Mutual Life Insurance Company's motion for summary judgment. Although she did not identify any particular documents, Plaintiff asserted that the documents at issue are designated as confidential by Defendants. On June 15, 2011, the parties filed a stipulated request for leave to file under seal Plaintiff's opposition brief, her declaration and the Declaration of John A. McGuinn. On June 16, 2011, Defendants filed a declaration supporting Plaintiff's June 9 administrative motion. Defendants' declaration addresses only the

1 McGuinn Declaration and its supporting exhibits.

2       Plaintiff's filings are connected to a dispositive motion.  
3 Because Defendants designated the documents at issue as  
4 confidential, they must file a declaration establishing that the  
5 documents are sealable. Civ. L.R. 79-5(d). To do so, Defendants  
6 "must overcome a strong presumption of access by showing that  
7 'compelling reasons supported by specific factual findings . . .  
8 outweigh the general history of access and the public policies  
9 favoring disclosure.'" Pintos v. Pac. Creditors Ass'n, 605 F.3d  
10 665, 679 (9th Cir. 2010) (citation omitted). This cannot be  
11 established simply by showing that the document is subject to a  
12 protective order or by stating in general terms that the material  
13 is considered to be confidential, but rather must be supported by a  
14 sworn declaration demonstrating with particularity the need to file  
15 each document under seal. Civ. Local R. 79-5(a).

16       Documents cannot be sealed solely on the parties'  
17 stipulation. See Civ. L.R. 79-5(a). Thus, their stipulated  
18 request is DENIED. (Docket No. 40.)

19       Defendants, however, have provided reasons supporting the  
20 sealing of the McGuinn Declaration and its supporting exhibits,  
21 which Plaintiff filed along with her opposition to Defendants'  
22 motion for summary judgment. Accordingly, Plaintiff's motion for  
23 leave to file documents under seal is GRANTED to the extent it  
24 pertains to the McGuinn Declaration and its supporting exhibits.  
25 (Docket No. 36.) Within three days of the date of this Order,  
26 Plaintiff shall electronically file the McGuinn Declaration and its  
27 supporting exhibits under seal, in accordance with General Order  
28 62.

1 Plaintiff's opposition brief and her related declaration were  
2 also at issue in the parties' rejected stipulation. If Defendants  
3 believe these documents should be filed under seal, they shall file  
4 a declaration establishing their sealability within three days of  
5 the date of this Order. If Defendants do not file such a  
6 declaration, Plaintiff shall electronically file these documents in  
7 the public record.

8 IT IS SO ORDERED.

9  
10 Dated: 6/20/2011



CLAUDIA WILKEN  
United States District Judge